IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to Figure 1. This sheet replaces the original sheet of Figure 1. Applicants have added the label of "114" on Figure 1 to identify the element of "Ethernet Controller." Applicants have attached herewith an annotated sheet showing this change to Figure 1 as well as a replacement sheet for Figure 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
               Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. The Drawings are objected to. The Specification is objected to. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants address the Examiner's objections to the Drawings and Specification below. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the reasons below and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

I.   <u>OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS:</u>

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for not including the reference "LARQ 110" as discussed in Applicants' Specification on page 2, lines 6-7. Paper No. 5, page 2. Applicants amended the Specification, as indicated above, removing the element number "110." Applicants believe the amendment to the Specification addresses the Examiner's objection to the drawings for not including the reference "LARQ 110".

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for including the element "PHY 110" but not including a description of the element in the Specification. Paper No. 5, page 2. Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to at least page 1, line 19 which discusses Physical Layer (PHY) 110. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the Specification does include a description of the element PHY 110.

The Examiner has further objected to the drawings because reference character "112" has been used to designate both the Host MAC as well as the Ethernet Controller. Paper No. 5, page 3. Applicants have amended Figure 1 to label Ethernet Controller 114 as well as amended the Specification accordingly.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objections to the drawings.

II.   <u>OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION:</u>

The Examiner has objected to the Specification because the Specification is not line numbered. Paper No. 5, page 4. In particular, the Examiner cites 37 C.F.R. §1.52(b)(6) which states in part "other than in a reissue application or reexamination proceeding, the paragraphs of the specification, other than in the claims or abstract, may be numbered at the time the application is filed." Paper No. 5, page 4. Applicants point out that the passage cited by the Examiner states "may be" and not "must." Hence, there is no requirement that the Specification must be line numbered. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this objection to the Specification.

III.   REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mallory et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6877,043) (hereinafter "Mallory") in view of Szczepanek (U.S. Patent No. 6,414,956). Paper No. 5, page 4. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the reasons stated below and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

A.   Mallory and Szczepanek, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest the following claim limitations.

Applicants respectfully assert that Mallory and Szczepanek, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "detecting a limited automatic repeat request (LARQ) header in a frame with a priority tag" as recited in claim 1 and similarly in claims 5 and 9. The Examiner cites column 39, lines 36-38 and column 40, lines 19-22 of Mallory as teaching the above-cited claim limitation. Paper No. 5, page 5. Applicants respectfully traverse and assert that Mallory instead teaches that the LARQ functions as an adaptation layer between the Ethernet link layer (layer 2) and the IP network layer (layer 3). Column 39, lines 33-35. Mallory further teaches that it is commonly implemented in the device driver. Column 39, lines 35-36. Mallory further teaches that stations implement LARQ per "LARQ channel", where a LARQ Channel is identified by the tuple {source address, destination address, priority}. Column 39, lines 36-38. Mallory further teaches that there is no explicit channel

setup procedure. Column 40, line 19. Mallory further teaches that a new channel is implicitly defined when a station chooses to send LARQ encapsulated frames for a new combination of DA, SA and link layer priority. Column 40, lines 19-22. Hence, Mallory teaches that stations implement LARQ per "LARQ channel", where a LARQ Channel is identified by the tuple. Identifying a LARQ Channel is not the same as detecting a LARQ header in a frame. Neither is there any language in the cited passages that teaches detecting a LARQ header in a frame with a priority tag. Therefore, the Examiner has not presented a *prima facie* case of obviousness in rejecting claims 1, 5 and 9, since the Examiner is relying upon an incorrect, factual predicate in support of the rejections. *In re Rouffet*, 47 U.S.P.Q.2d 1453, 1455 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

Applicants further assert that Mallory and Szczepanek, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "stripping the LARQ header and a frame check sequence (FCS) in the frame with the priority tag" as recited in claim 1 and similarly in claims 5 and 9. The Examiner cites column 39, lines 58-60 and column 41, lines 51-67 of Mallory as teaching the above-cited claim limitation. Paper No. 5, page 5. Applicants respectfully traverse and assert that Mallory instead teaches that all stations are capable of removing LARQ headers from received frames (de-encapsulating the original payloads). Column 39, lines 58-60. Mallory further teaches that for the send to process a NACK control frame the priority and Original Destination Address (NACK_DA) are read from the LARQ NACK header. Column 40, lines 52-54. Mallory further teaches that the logical channel state information for the sender channel is accessed, where the channel DA is the NACK_DA and the channel SA is the Ethernet DA from the Nack control frame. Column 40, lines 54-57. Mallory further teaches that the NACK count in the LARQ header indicates the number of sequence numbers requested for retransmission. Column 40, lines 54-59. Hence, Mallory teaches that removing LARQ headers. However, there is no language in the cited passages that teaches stripping a frame check sequence. Neither is there any language in the cited passages that teaches stripping a frame check sequence in the frame with the priority tag. Therefore, the Examiner has not

presented a *prima facie* case of obviousness in rejecting claims 1, 5 and 9, since the Examiner is relying upon an incorrect, factual predicate in support of the rejections. *In re Rouffet*, 47 U.S.P.Q.2d 1453, 1455 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

Applicants further assert that Mallory and Szczepanek, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "recalculating the FCS for the stripped frame with the priority tag" as recited in claim 1 and similarly in claims 5 and 9. The Examiner cites column 3, line 67 – column 4, line 13; and column 5, lines 24-40 of Szczepanek as teaching the above-cited claim limitation. Paper No. 5, page 5. Applicants respectfully traverse and assert that Szczepanek instead teaches that if the CRC was generated on-the-fly for a frame excluding the header at transmit time then the frames would be sent with a newly-generated perfect CRC while there was still 4 bytes of the frame left to check. Column 3, line 66 – column 4, line 3. Szczepanek further teaches that the switching device includes a tag header processing means operable to insert a tag header into frames that enter the switching device without a tag header and a CRF processing means operable to calculate a CRC for the frame excluding the tag header for use while the frame is being processed within the switching device. Column 5, lines 22-30. There is no language in the cited passages that teaches recalculating a frame check sequence. Szczepanek instead teaches calculating a cyclic redundancy check. Furthermore, there is no language in the cited passages that teaches recalculating a frame check sequence for the stripped frame with a priority tag. Therefore, the Examiner has not presented a *prima facie* case of obviousness in rejecting claims 1, 5 and 9, since the Examiner is relying upon an incorrect, factual predicate in support of the rejections. *In re Rouffet*, 47 U.S.P.Q.2d 1453, 1455 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

Applicants further assert that Mallory and Szczepanek, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "adding the recalculated FCS to the stripped frame with the priority tag " as recited in claim 1 and similarly in claims 5 and 9. The Examiner cites column 3, line 67 – column 4, line 13; and column 5, lines 24-40 of

Szczepanek as teaching the above-cited claim limitation. Paper No. 5, page 5. Applicants respectfully traverse.

As stated above, Szczepanek instead teaches that if the CRC was generated on-the-fly for a frame excluding the header at transmit time then the frames would be sent with a newly-generated perfect CRC while there was still 4 bytes of the frame left to check. Column 3, line 66 – column 4, line 3. Szczepanek further teaches that the switching device includes a tag header processing means operable to insert a tag header into frames that enter the switching device without a tag header and a CRF processing means operable to calculate a CRC for the frame excluding the tag header for use while the frame is being processed within the switching device. Column 5, lines 22-30. As stated above, there is no language in the cited passages that teaches recalculating a frame check sequence. Szczepanek instead teaches calculating a cyclic redundancy check. Neither is there any language in the cited passages that teaches adding the recalculated FCS to the stripped frame with the priority tag. Therefore, the Examiner has not presented a *prima facie* case of obviousness in rejecting claims 1, 5 and 9, since the Examiner is relying upon an incorrect, factual predicate in support of the rejections. *In re Rouffet*, 47 U.S.P.Q.2d 1453, 1455 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

Applicants further assert that Mallory and Szczepanek, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "an Ethernet controller" as recited in claim 9. The Examiner has not addressed this claim limitation. Paper No. 5, pages 4-5. The Examiner is reminded that the Examiner's bears the initial burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness which includes citing to a reference or combination of references that teaches each of the limitations. M.P.E.P. §§2142-2143. Therefore, the Examiner has not presented a *prima facie* case of obviousness in rejecting claim 9, since the Examiner is relying upon an incorrect, factual predicate in support of the rejections. *In re Rouffet*, 47 U.S.P.Q.2d 1453, 1455 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12 each recite combinations of features including the above combinations, and thus are patentable over Mallory in view of Szczepanek for

at least the above-stated reasons. Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12 recite additional features, which, in combination with the features of the claims upon which they depend, are patentable over Mallory in view of Szczepanek.

For example, Mallory and Szczepanek, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "placing information in the LARQ header in a frame status frame which will follow the stripped frame with the priority tag" as recited in claim 2 and similarly in claims 6 and 10. The Examiner cites column 39, lines 35-38 and column 40, lines 19-26 of Mallory as teaching the above-cited claim limitation. Paper No. 5, page 5. Applicants respectfully traverse and assert that Mallory instead teaches that the LARQ functions as an adaptation layer between the Ethernet link layer (layer 2) and the IP network layer (layer 3). Column 39, lines 33-35. Mallory further teaches that it is commonly implemented in the device driver. Column 39, lines 35-36. Mallory further teaches that stations implement LARQ per "LARQ channel", where a LARQ Channel is identified by the tuple {source address, destination address, priority}. Column 39, lines 36-38. Mallory further teaches that there is no explicit channel setup procedure. Column 40, line 19. Mallory further teaches that a new channel is implicitly defined when a station chooses to send LARQ encapsulated frames for a new combination of DA, SA and link layer priority. Column 40, lines 19-22. Hence, Mallory teaches that stations implement LARQ per "LARQ channel", where a LARQ Channel is identified by the tuple. There is no language in the cited passages that teaches placing information in a LARQ header. Neither is there any language in the cited passages that teaches placing information in a LARQ header in a frame status frame. Neither is there any language in the cited passages that teaches placing information in a LARQ header in a frame status frame which will follow the stripped frame with the priority tag. Therefore, the Examiner has not presented a *prima facie* case of obviousness in rejecting claims 2, 6 and 10, since the Examiner is relying upon an incorrect, factual predicate in support of the rejections. *In re Rouffet*, 47 U.S.P.Q.2d 1453, 1455 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

Applicants further assert that Mallory and Szczepanek, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "sending the stripped frame with the priority tag and the recalculated FCS to an Ethernet controller" as recited in claim 3. The Examiner cites to Figures 4A, 30 and column 21, line 67; column 22, lines 1-15; and column 23, lines 32-41 of Mallory as teaching the above-cited claim limitation. Paper No. 5, page 5. Applicants respectfully traverse and assert that Mallory instead teaches that the carrier sense detects the staring and ending times of a valid frame transmission on the wire. Column 21, line 67 – column 22, line 1. Mallory further teaches that this is used to determine when frames are present on the channel/transmission medium, as well as being used to determine the presence of a Backoff Signal in a Signal Slot. Column 22, lines 1-4. Mallory further teaches that the V2 embodiment can be used for carrying media streams, such as video and audio. Column 23, lines 32-33. There is no language in the cited passages that teaches sending a stripped frame with a priority tag. Neither is there any language in the cited passages that teaches sending a stripped frame with a priority tag and a recalculated FCS. Neither is there any language in the cited passages that teaches sending a stripped frame with a priority tag and a recalculated FCS to an Ethernet controller. Therefore, the Examiner has not presented a *prima facie* case of obviousness in rejecting claim 3, since the Examiner is relying upon an incorrect, factual predicate in support of the rejections. *In re Rouffet*, 47 U.S.P.Q.2d 1453, 1455 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

Applicants further assert that Mallory and Szczepanek, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "sending the stripped frame with the priority tag and the recalculated FCS to an appropriate priority queue according to the priority tag" as recited in claim 4. The Examiner cites column 21, line 67; column 22, lines 1-15; column 23, lines 32-41; column 39, lines 58-67; column 78, lines 52-67; and column 79, lines 1-21 of Mallory as teaching the above-cited claim limitation. Paper No. 5, page 6. Applicants respectfully traverse and assert that Mallory instead teaches that the carrier sense detects the staring and ending times of a valid frame transmission on the wire. Column 21, line 67 – column 22, line 1. Mallory further teaches that this is used to determine when frames are present on the

channel/transmission medium, as well as being used to determine the presence of a Backoff Signal in a Signal Slot. Column 22, lines 1-4. Mallory further teaches that the V2 embodiment can be used for carrying media streams, such as video and audio. Column 23, lines 32-33. Mallory further teaches that all stations are capable of removing LARQ headers from received frames (de-encapsulating the original payloads). Column 39, lines 58-60. Mallory further teaches that a solution that allows for multiple instances of the MAC protocol to operate in parallel with one instance for each of 8 different priority levels. Column 78, lines 53-55. Mallory further teaches that each MAC instance (priority level) operates with a successively longer inter-frame space (IFS). Column 78, lines 55-57. Mallory further teaches that packets from lower levels of priority are only allowed access to the network when no packets exist at higher levels. Column 78, lines 57-59. There is no language in the cited passages that teaches sending a stripped frame with a priority tag and a recalculated FCS to an appropriate priority queue. Neither is there any language in the cited passages that teaches sending a stripped frame with a priority tag and a recalculated FCS to an appropriate priority queue according to the priority tag. Therefore, the Examiner has not presented a *prima facie* case of obviousness in rejecting claim 4, since the Examiner is relying upon an incorrect, factual predicate in support of the rejections. *In re Rouffet*, 47 U.S.P.Q.2d 1453, 1455 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

Applicants further assert that Mallory and Szczepanek, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "wherein the first logic block asserts a second signal and a third signal to the second logic block, wherein the second signal indicates that the FCS is to be stripped from the frame with the priority tag, wherein the third signal indicates that the LARQ header is to be stripped from the frame with the priority tag" as recited in claim 7 and similarly in claim 11. The Examiner cites Figure 4 and column 6, claim 1, lines 16-32 of Szczepanek as teaching the above-cited claim limitation. Paper No. 5, page 6. Applicants respectfully traverse and assert that Szczepanek instead teaches generating a CRC for the first modified frame excluding the tag header to generate a second modified frame; processing the second modified frame within the switching device; and before transmitting the second

modified frame; if the tag header is asserted, removing the tag header from the second modified frame to generate a third modified frame; otherwise replacing the tag header in the second modified frame with the stored tag header to generate the third modified frame; and generating a CRC for the third modified frame to generate a fourth modified frame. Column 6, claim 1, lines 16-32. There is no language in the cited passage that teaches where a first logic block asserts a second signal and a third signal to a second logic block. Neither is there any language in the cited passage that teaches where the second signal indicates that the FCS is to be stripped from the frame with the priority tag. Neither is there any language in the cited passage that teaches where the third signal indicates that the LARQ header is to be stripped from the frame with the priority tag. Therefore, the Examiner has not presented a *prima facie* case of obviousness in rejecting claims 7 and 11, since the Examiner is relying upon an incorrect, factual predicate in support of the rejections. *In re Rouffet*, 47 U.S.P.Q.2d 1453, 1455 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

Applicants further assert that Mallory and Szczepanek, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest "wherein an asserted fourth signal to the third logic block enables the recalculation of the FCS" as recited in claim 8 and similarly in claim 12. The Examiner cites element 404 of Figure 4 and column 6, lines 31-33 of Szczepanek as teaching the above-cited claim limitation. Paper No. 5, page 7. Applicants respectfully traverse and assert that Szczepanek instead teaches generating a CRC for the third modified frame to generate a fourth modified frame. Column 6, lines 31-32. Furthermore, Szczepanek teaches that element 404 corresponds to the CRC processing means. Column 5, lines 35-40. There is no language in the cited passage and Figure that teaches an asserted fourth signal to a third logic block. Neither is there any language in the cited passage and Figure that teaches an asserted fourth signal to a third logic block that enables the recalculation of the FCS. Therefore, the Examiner has not presented a *prima facie* case of obviousness in rejecting claims 8 and 12, since the Examiner is relying upon an incorrect, factual predicate in support of the rejections. *In re Rouffet*, 47 U.S.P.Q.2d 1453, 1455 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

As a result of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert that there are numerous claim limitations not taught or suggested in the cited prior art, and thus claims 1-12 are patentable over Mallory in view of Szczepanek. M.P.E.P. §2143.

     B.   The Examiner's motivation is insufficient to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness in rejecting claims 1-12.

     1.   The Examiner has not provided any source of motivation for modifying Mallory with Szczepanek.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Examiner must provide some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves, the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, or, in some case, the nature of the problem to be solved, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. *See In re Dembiczak*, 175 F.3d 994, 999, 50 U.S.P.Q.2d 1614, 1617 (Fed. Cir. 1999).

The Examiner admits that Mallory does not teach recalculating the FCS for the stripped frame with the priority tag; and adding the recalculated FCS to the stripped frame with the priority tag, as recited in claim 1 and similarly in claims 5 and 9. Paper No. 5, page 5. The Examiner further admits that Mallory does not teach where the first logic block asserts a second signal and a third signal to the second logic block, where the second signal indicates that the FCS is to be stripped from the frame with the priority tag, and where the third signal indicates that the LARQ header is to be stripped from the frame with the priority tag, as recited in claim 7 and similarly in claim 11. Paper No. 5, page 6. The Examiner further admits that Mallory does not teach where an asserted fourth signal to the third logic block enables the recalculation of the FCS, as recited in claim 8 and similarly in claim 12. Paper No. 5, page 7.

The Examiner's motivation for modifying Mallory with Szczepanek to include the above-cited claim limitations is "in order to provide an improved switching device operating in a shared media." Paper No. 5, pages 5 and 7. The Examiner's motivation is insufficient to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness for at least the reasons stated below.

The Examiner has not presented a source for his motivation for modifying Mallory with Szczepanek. As stated above, the Examiner must provide some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves, the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, or, in some cases the nature of the problem to be solved, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. *See In re Dembiczak*, 175 F.3d 1994, 999, 50 U.S.P.Q.2d 1614, 1617 (Fed. Cir. 1999). The Examiner has not provided any evidence that his motivation comes from any of these sources. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to particularly point out from which of these sources his motivation comes from. The Examiner appears to be relying upon his own subjective opinion which is insufficient to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness. *In re Lee*, 61 U.S.P.Q.2d 1430, 1434 (Fed. Cir. 2002). Consequently, the Examiner's motivation is insufficient to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness for rejecting claims 1-12. *Id.*

2.   The Examiner has not provided objective evidence for modifying Mallory with Szczepanek.

The Examiner's motivation does not address as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would modify Mallory to recalculate the FCS for the stripped frame with the priority tag; and to add the recalculated FCS to the stripped frame with the priority tag. Neither does the Examiner's motivation address as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would modify Mallory to have a first logic block assert a second signal and a third signal to the second logic block, where the second signal indicates that the FCS is to be stripped from the frame with the priority tag, and where the third signal indicates that the LARQ header is to be stripped from the frame with the priority tag. Neither does the Examiner's motivation address as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would modify Mallory to have an asserted fourth signal to the third logic block to enable the recalculation of the FCS.

Mallory addresses the problem of distributing sets of collision resolution parameters in a frame-based communications network. Column 3, lines 49-52. The Examiner's motivation for modifying Mallory to include the above-cited claim

limitations is "in order to provide an improved switching device operating in a shared media." Paper No. 5, pages 5 and 7. Providing an improved switching device operating in a shared media is immaterial to overcoming the problem of distributing sets of collision resolution parameters in a frame-based communications network. The Examiner has not provided any rationale connection between providing an improved switching device operating in a shared media with overcoming the problem of distributing sets of collision resolution parameters in a frame-based communications network. Neither has the Examiner provided any rationale connection between providing an improved switching device operating in a shared media with modifying Mallory, which teaches distributing sets of collision resolution parameters in a frame-based communications network, to recalculate the FCS for the stripped frame with the priority tag; and to add the recalculated FCS to the stripped frame with the priority tag. Neither has the Examiner provided any rationale connection between providing an improved switching device operating in a shared media with modifying Mallory, which teaches distributing sets of collision resolution parameters in a frame-based communications network, to have a first logic block assert a second signal and a third signal to the second logic block, where the second signal indicates that the FCS is to be stripped from the frame with the priority tag, and where the third signal indicates that the LARQ header is to be stripped from the frame with the priority tag. Neither has the Examiner provided any rationale connection between providing an improved switching device operating in a shared media with modifying Mallory, which teaches distributing sets of collision resolution parameters in a frame-based communications network, to have an asserted fourth signal to the third logic block to enable the recalculation of the FCS. The Examiner must provide objective evidence as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would modify Mallory to include the above-cited claim limitations. *In re Lee*, 61 U.S.P.Q.2d 1430, 1434 (Fed. Cir. 2002). The Examiner has not provided such objective evidence. Consequently, the Examiner's motivation is insufficient to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness for rejecting claims 1-12. *Id.*

Further, the Examiner's motivation does not address as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would modify Mallory with Szczepanek to include the above-cited claim limitations. Szczepanek addresses the problem of providing consistent treatment of signals within a switch in a shared media environment by providing for the transportation of all data frames within the switch with a VLAN tag and a Cyclic Redundancy Code (CRC) even when the signal is originally received without a VLAN tag. Column 2, lines 63-67. The Examiner's motivation ("to provide an improved switching device operating in a shared media") does not address as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would modify Mallory (which teaches distributing sets of collision resolution parameters in a frame-based communications network) to include the above-cited claim limitations in light of Szczepanek (which addresses the problem of providing consistent treatment of signals within a switch in a shared media environment by providing for the transportation of all data frames within the switch with a VLAN tag and a Cyclic Redundancy Code (CRC) even when the signal is originally received without a VLAN tag). The Examiner's motivation does not provide a rationale for a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Mallory and Szczepanek, which both address different problems. Neither does the Examiner's motivation provide a rationale for a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Mallory to include the above-cited claim limitations in light of Szczepanek, which addresses a different problem. The Examiner must provide objective evidence as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would modify Mallory with Szczepanek to include the above-cited claim limitations. *In re Lee*, 61 U.S.P.Q.2d 1430, 1434 (Fed. Cir. 2002). The Examiner has not provided such objective evidence. Consequently, the Examiner's motivation is insufficient to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness for rejecting claims 1-12. *Id.*

IV.   CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that claims 1-12 in the Application are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an allowance of such claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

WINSTEAD SECHREST & MINICK P.C.

Attorneys for Applicants,
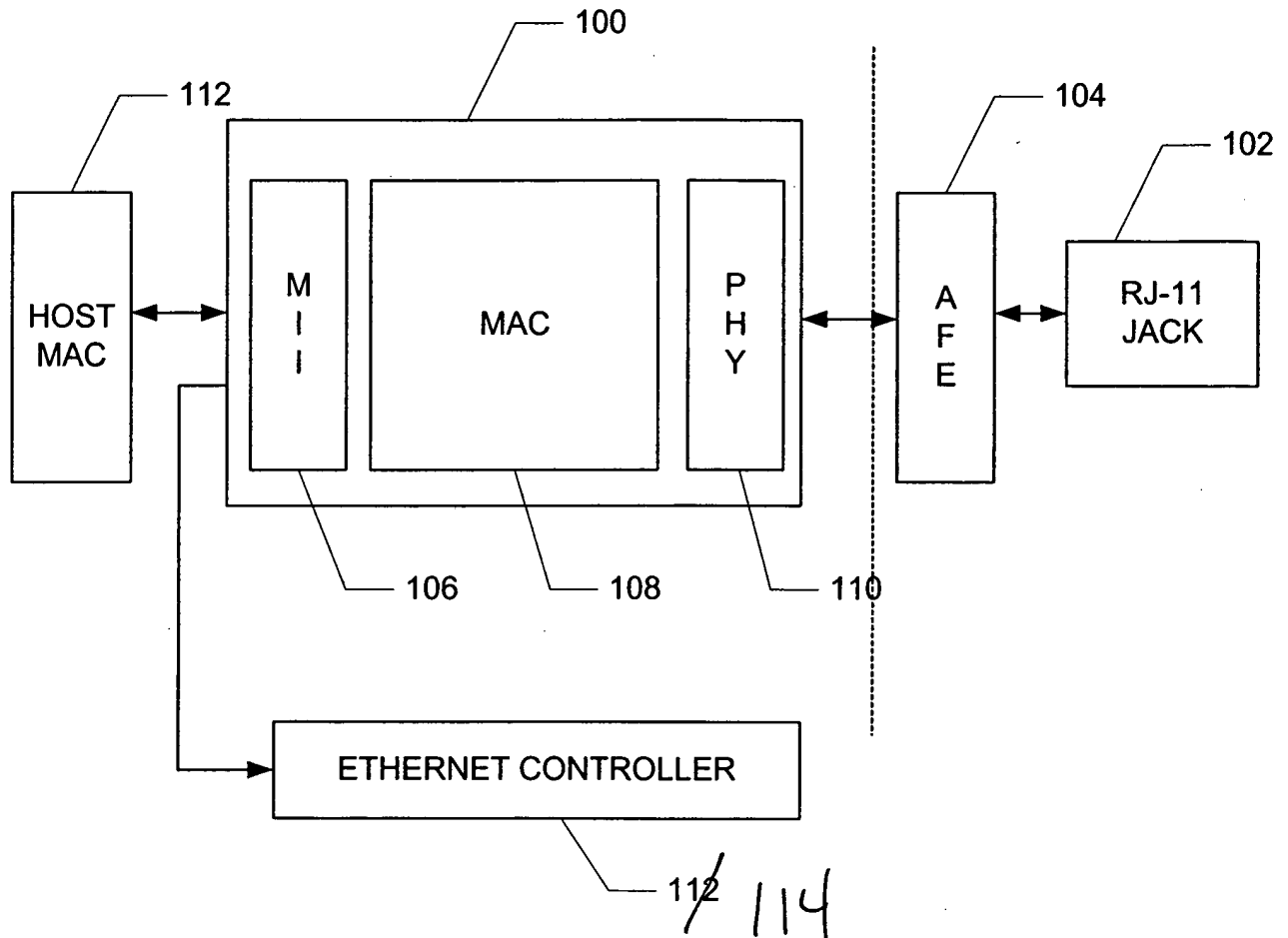
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FIG. 1